

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**May 26, 2004
State Capitol, Room 321
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee for the 2004 interim was called to order by Representative James Roger Madalena, co-chair, on Wednesday, May 26, 2004, at 10:18 a.m. in Room 321 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

PRESENT

Rep. James Roger Madalena, Co-chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Ray Begaye
Rep. Irvin Harrison
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. Lidio G. Rainaldi
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Advisory Members

Sen. Joseph J. Carraro
Rep. Ben Lujan
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Sen. William E. Sharer

Staff

Leslie Schaar
Charles H. Van Gorder

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Copies of all handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

ABSENT

Sen. Leonard Tsosie, Co-chair
Sen. Raymond Kysar
Sen. John Pinto
Rep. Don Tripp
Rep. Avon W. Wilson
Rep. Teresa A. Zanetti

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano
Rep. Fred Luna
Rep. James G. Taylor
Rep. W. C. "Dub" Williams

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS

Della Warrior, president of the Institute of American Indian Arts, introduced the institute's proposal for the development of a Center for Lifelong Education, Research and Cultural Exchange for Indigenous Peoples. The proposed center is to be located on land owned by the institute on A Van U Po Road in Santa Fe. The cost of the proposed center is estimated at \$60 million. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has given a \$10 million grant pending receipt of matching funds on a 2:1 basis. (The foundation has also provided a \$2 million planning grant.) The institute is seeking the remaining \$50 million in funding from the following sources: \$8 million from the federal government (\$4 million already committed), \$6 million from American Indian tribes and \$6 million from the state of New Mexico (\$770,000 already committed). Governor Richardson committed \$2 million from his capital outlay fund over a two-year period, \$500,000 of which was committed during the last legislative session. Legislators committed \$700,000 in individual capital outlay requests during the past session, of which \$432,000 was vetoed by the governor.

Paul Fragua, the institute's architect, gave a Powerpoint presentation — including a simulated visual fly-over — that outlined the architectural plans for the proposed center and its campus. Emphasis was placed on the passive solar energy and extensive water recycling elements of the planned facility, which elements will result in a 60 percent saving in energy and water consumption.

Following Mr. Fragua's presentation, Ms. Warrior requested that the committee write a letter to the governor supporting the proposed center, provide advocacy and leadership for the institute's fund-raising efforts and meet with the governor to solicit his full support for the proposed center. After questions and discussion by committee members, Representative Begaye moved that the committee write a letter to the governor expressing the committee's support for the proposed center, and that similar letters of support be provided to any potential federal or private sources of funding. The motion was seconded by Senator Rainaldi and was passed unanimously by the committee.

SUMMARY OF 2004 LEGISLATION

Leslie Schaar, staff attorney, Legislative Council Service, reviewed what happened to the legislation endorsed by the committee during the 2004 legislative session:

House Bill 156	Contained in House Bill 2
House Bill 157	
House Bill 179	Passed House
House Bill 296	
House Joint Memorial 12	Passed House
House Joint Memorial 18	Signed
House Joint Memorial 22	Passed House
Senate Bill 350	Contained in House Bill 2
Senate Bill 351	Contained in House Bill 2
Senate Joint Memorial 36	Passed Senate

DEVELOPMENT OF WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Schaar presented recommendations made by Senator Tsosie for several theme-based meetings of the committee during the interim. Following a discussion among committee members, the following meeting dates, locations and topics were agreed upon:

June 24-25: State Capitol - Santa Fe

Aging and Long-Term Services Department; capital outlay and analysis of reverted projects (Indian Affairs Department); natural resources — discussion of *Aamodt* settlement (Office of the State Engineer); exchange with tribes and pueblos of motor vehicle information (Motor Vehicle Division).

July 7-9: Farmington/Shiprock Area

Civil rights discrimination.

August 3-5: Albuquerque Area

Status of Native American HMO; juvenile corrections; Petroglyph monument; secession from Bernalillo County to Valencia County; possibly meet at Isleta Pueblo and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

September 14-16: Gallup Area

Rural economic development; education; alcohol issues - House Joint Memorial 80 (Gallup mayor); possibly meet at UNM branch campus.

October 26-28: Santa Fe Area

Possibly meet at San Juan Pueblo, Taos Pueblo and Institute for American Indian Arts.

November 9-10: State Capitol - Santa Fe

Discussion of procedures for capital outlay requests and legislation to be endorsed by the committee.

INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Secretary-designate Benny Shendo, Jr. of the Indian Affairs Department introduced himself to the committee and gave a brief history of his personal and professional background. He introduced the department's current staff, announced the recent appointment of G. Michelle Brown-Yazzie as deputy secretary and indicated that the position of department general counsel should be filled in the near future. Secretary-designate Shendo recognized the importance of the capital outlay process to the department, as \$20 million in capital funds go through the department annually. He is committed to making the capital outlay process more efficient, including improving educational levels for the capital outlay process at the local level.

Secretary-designate Shendo discussed the various special projects that are funded through the department and ways in which the department seeks to reach out to and communicate with the state's tribes and pueblos. Policy initiatives that the department is currently pursuing include the New Mexico Behavioral Health Purchasing Cooperative, repatriation and sacred places protection issues, homeland security and the Leadership Institute. Finally, Secretary-designate Shendo recognized the efforts of Derrith Watchman-Moore on behalf of the department and the state's Indian citizens and announced plans for a symposium to be held at the University of New Mexico to recognize and honor legislators and tribal leaders who have been "visionaries" and have worked for the benefit of Indian citizens and Indian communities of New Mexico.

Members of the committee questioned Secretary-designate Shendo on various topics of concern and commented on issues that they felt were important regarding Indian affairs. The secretary-designate was requested to try and have a department representative present at all future meetings of the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Representative Madalena adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.